(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient feature thereof; and

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) At the time of disinvestment of BALCO in March 2001, a Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) was signed between the Government of India and the Strategic Partner (SP). Modalities of acquisition of remaining shares held by the Government of India are provided in the SHA. In the SHA, there is provision of Call Option available to the SP to acquire remaining 49% shares held by the Government in BALCO. The SP sent a Call Notice in March, 2004 to acquire the remaining 49% shares held by the Government of India in BALCO. As the necessary process for valuation of shares was going on, the Ld. Attorney General, in April 2006, opined that the Call Option provision of the SHA is *ultra vires* the provisions of the Companies Act and hence, void and unenforceable. The SP had filed a case in Delhi High Court pleading, *inter-alia,* that pending arbitration, the Government be restrained from selling the shares to any third party. However, as per the dispute resolution mechanism provided in the SHA, negotiation/conciliation and mediation are the prior steps before referring the dispute to arbitration. Presently, the matter is at the mediation stage and the Government has constituted a Committee of Officers consisting of Secretaries of Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Disinvestment and Ministry of Mines in order to discuss issues related to the subject of mediation/arbitration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Sub-plan for assistance to minorities

1391. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for a sub-plan for providing targeted assistance to minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the categories of minorities that would be included in the proposed sub-plan?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The working group on the empowerment of the minorities, set up by the Planning Commission has, among other things, recommended introduction of a sub-plan for the minorities.

(c) Five minority communities *viz.* Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis, notified under section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, are eligible for benefits flowing from schemes intended for the minorities.